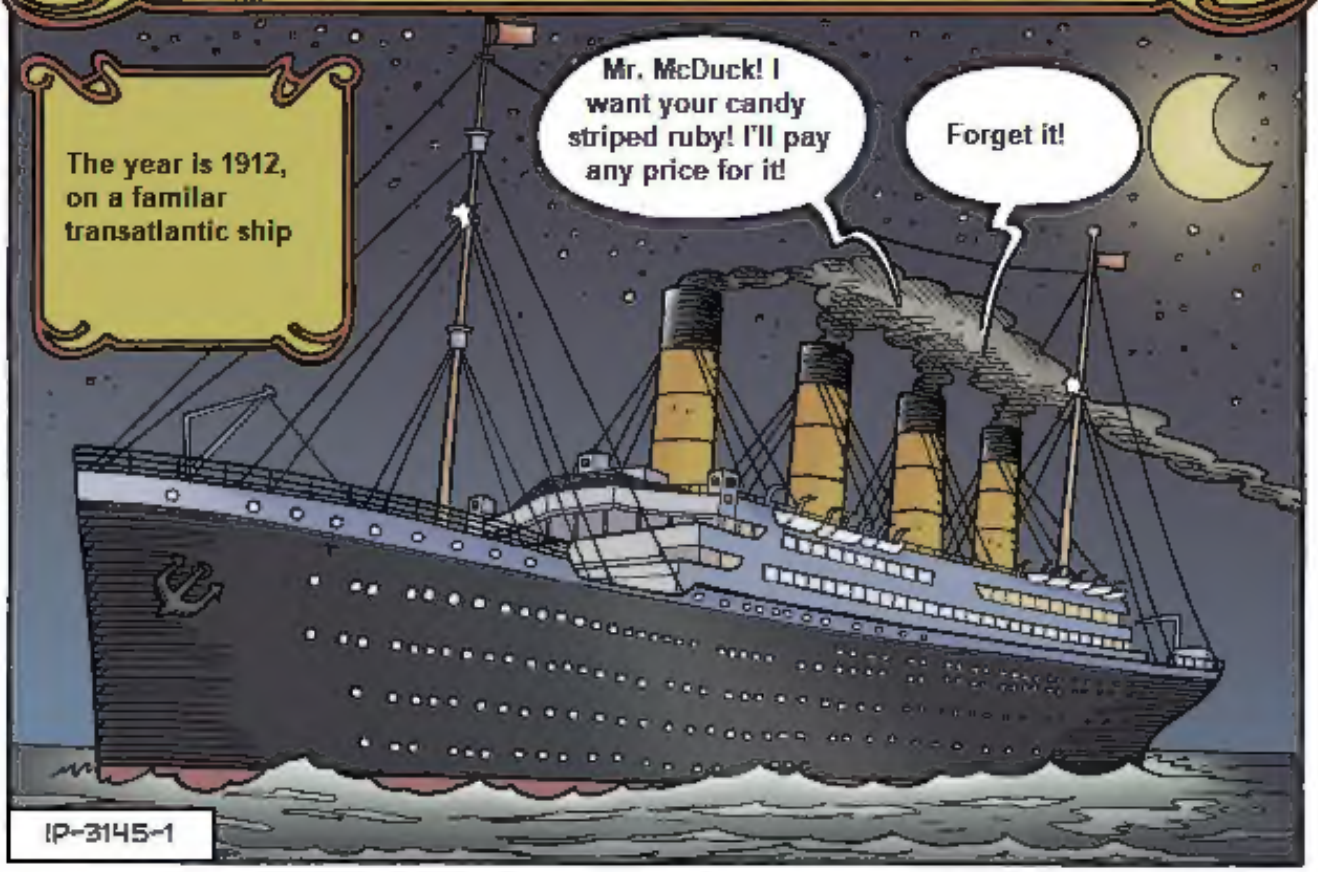
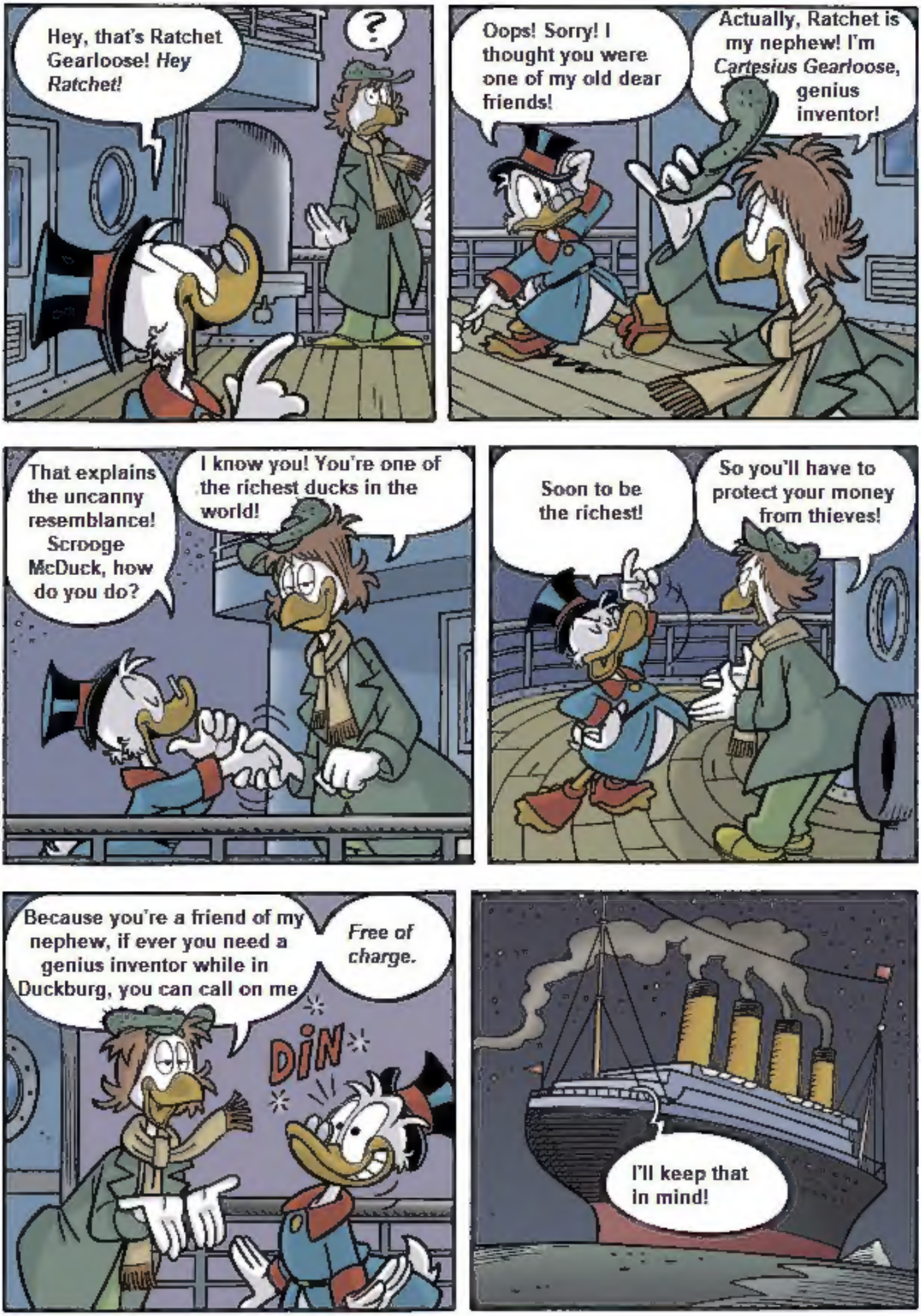
LE STRABILIANTI IMPRESE DI FANTOMIUS
-LADRO GENTILUOMO-

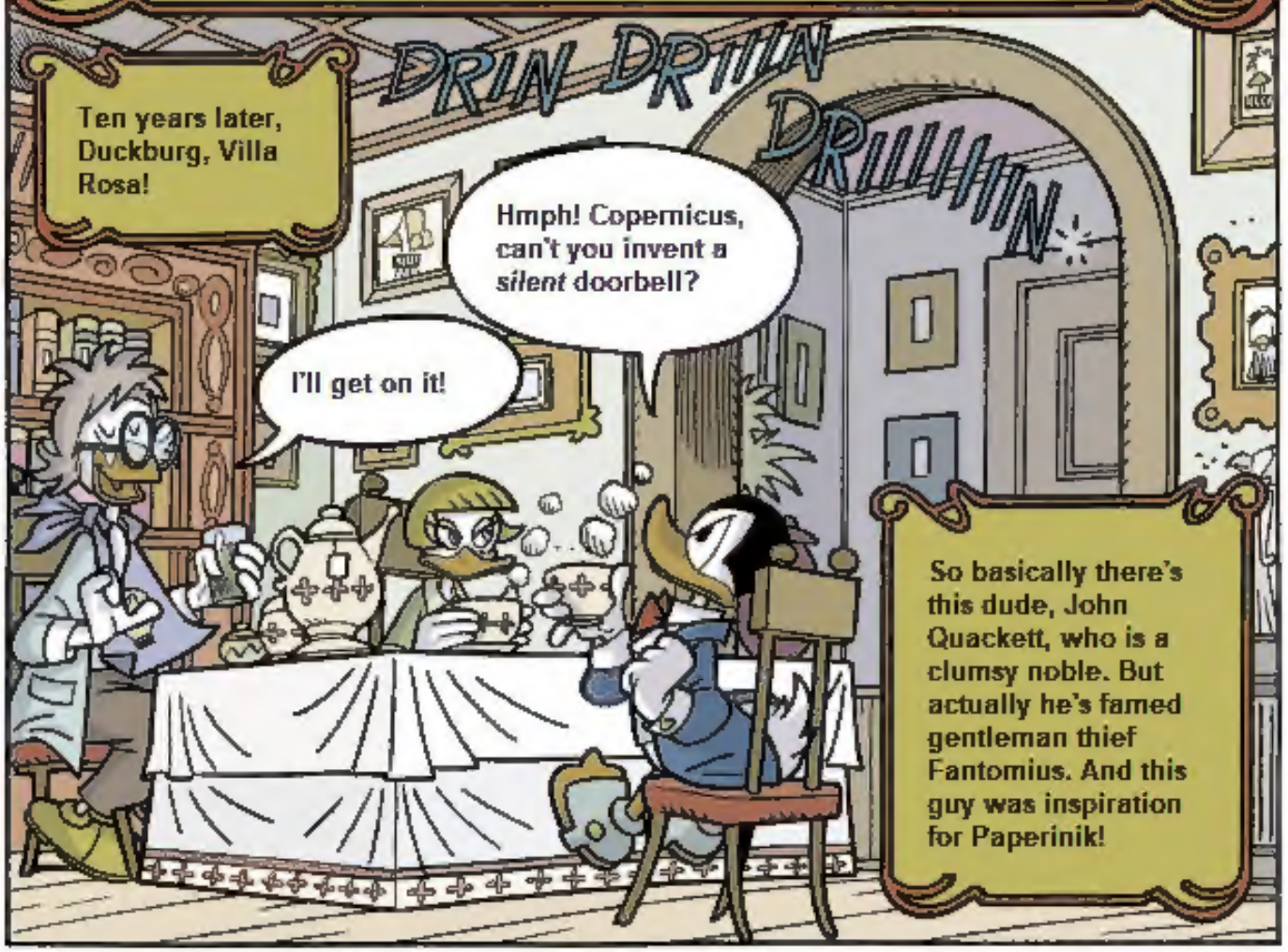

The year is 1912, on a familar transatlantic ship
Mr. McDuck! I want your candy striped ruby! I'll pay any price for it!
Forget it!
IP-3145-1

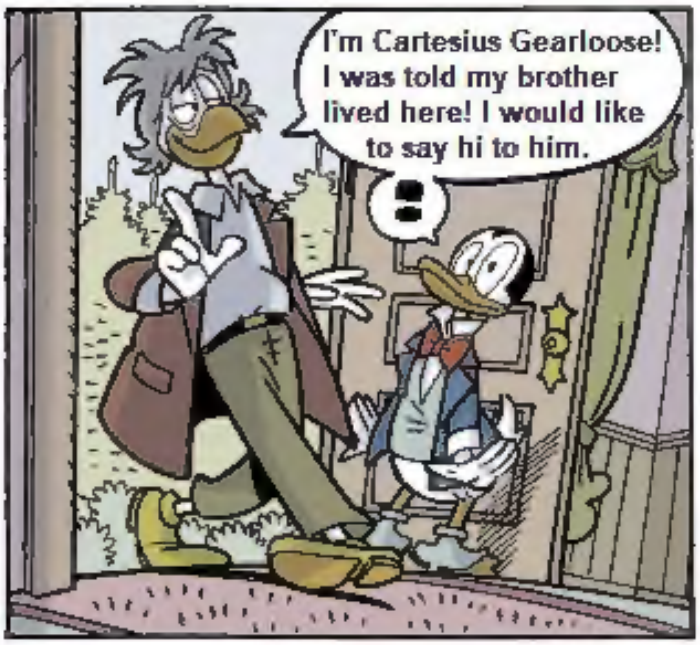
Hmm... Interesting! The candy striped ruby! Legendary jewel of Czar Nicholas II and inspiration for faberge eggs!
I must have it!

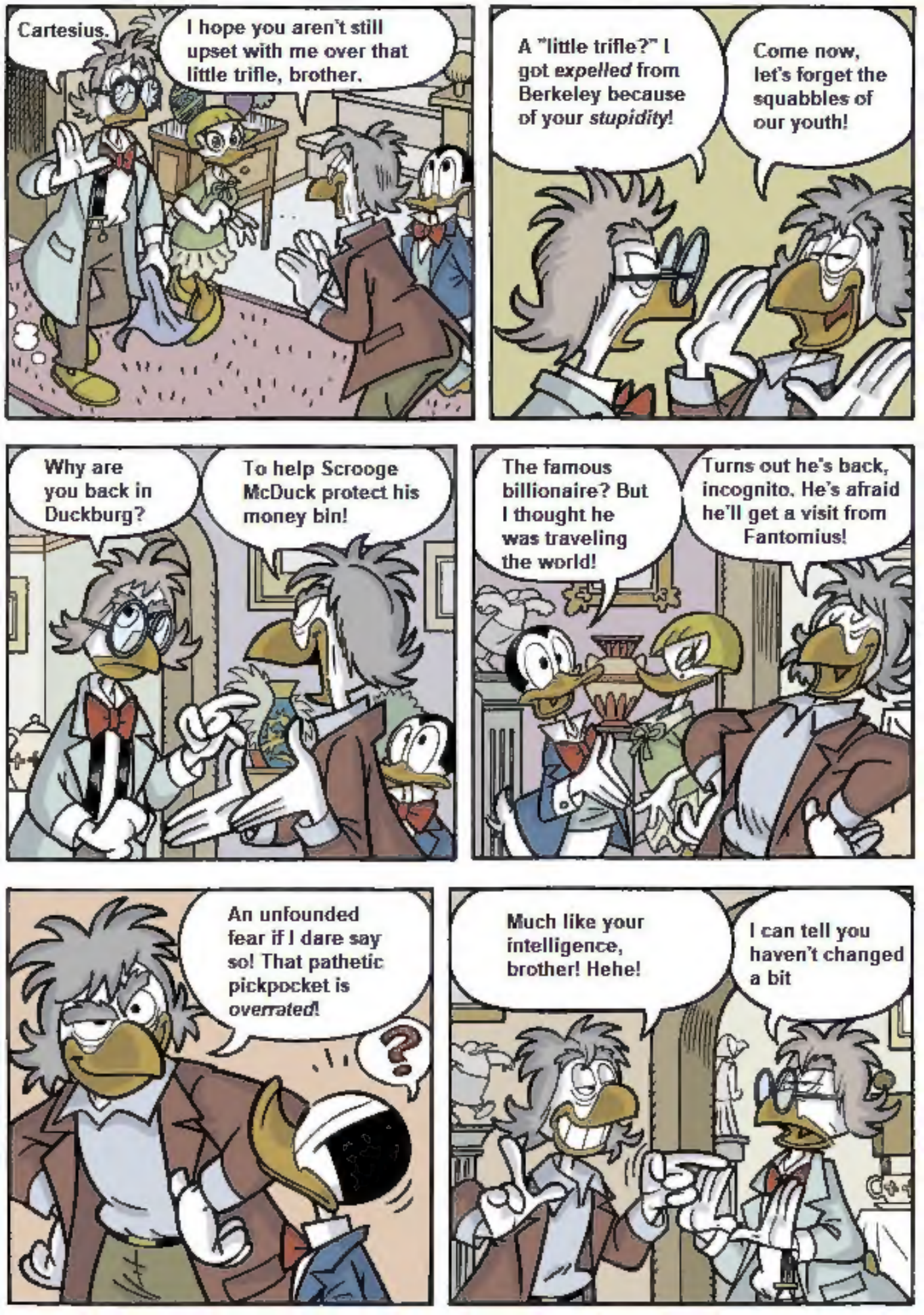
Soggetto, sceneggiatura e disegni di **Marco Gervasio**


Hey, that's Ratchet Gearloose! *Hey Ratchet!*
?
Oops! Sorry! I thought you were one of my old dear friends!
Actually, Ratchet is my nephew! I'm *Cartesius Gearloose*, genius inventor!
That explains the uncanny resemblance! Scrooge McDuck, how do you do?
I know you! You're one of the richest ducks in the world!
Soon to be the richest!
So you'll have to protect your money from thieves!
Because you're a friend of my nephew, if ever you need a genius inventor while in Duckburg, you can call on me
Free of charge.
DIN
I'll keep that in mind!

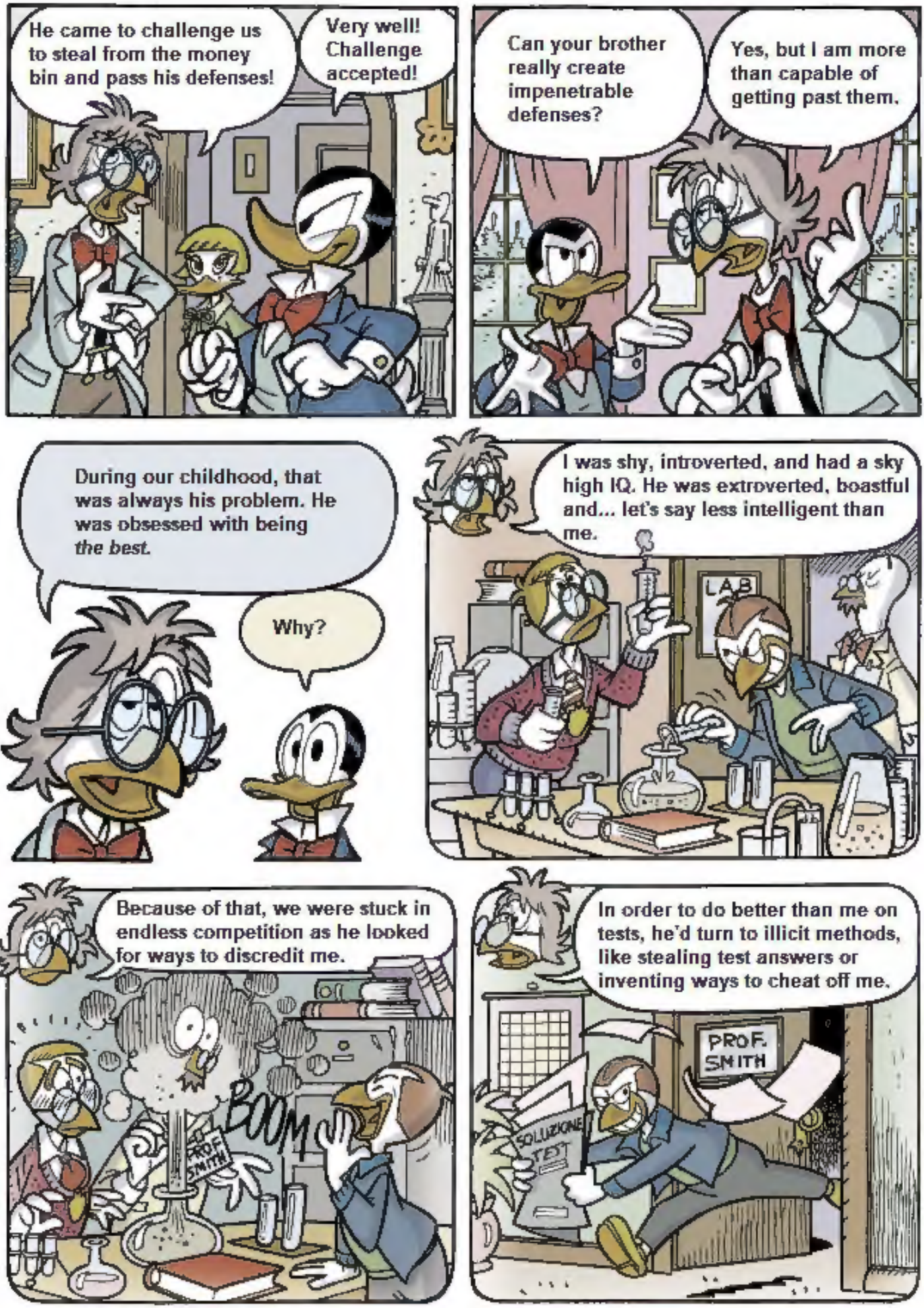
The Thief and the Billionaire

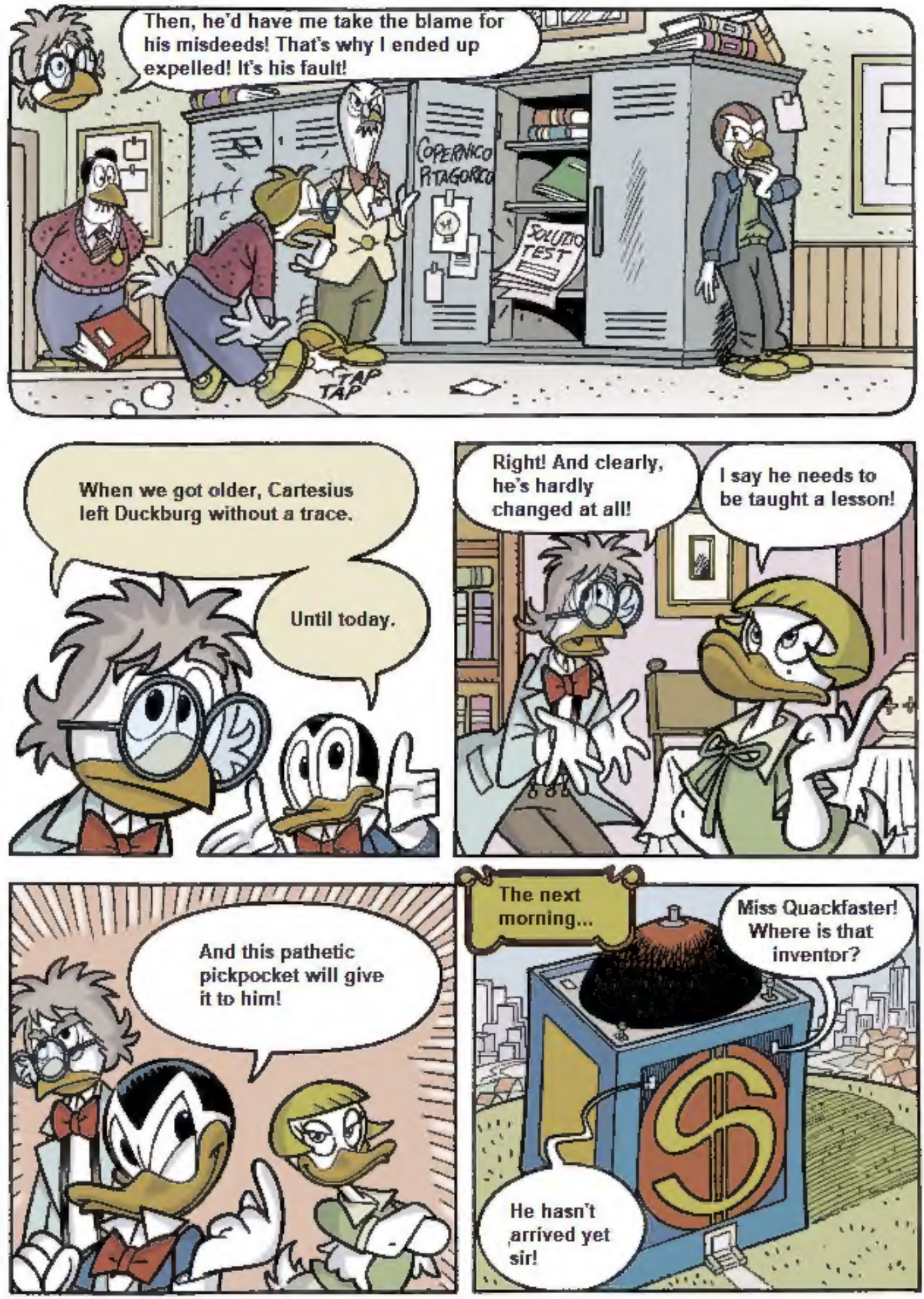

Ten years later, Duckburg, Villa Rosa!
DRIN DRIIN
DRIIIIIN
Hmph! Copernicus, can't you invent a *silent* doorbell?
I'll get on it!
So basically there's this dude, John Quackett, who is a clumsy noble. But actually he's famed gentleman thief Fantomius. And this guy was inspiration for Paperinik!




Cartesius.
I hope you aren't still upset with me over that little trifle, brother.
A "little trifle?" I got *expelled* from Berkeley because of your *stupidity*!
Come now, let's forget the squabbles of our youth!
Why are you back in Duckburg?
To help Scrooge McDuck protect his money bin!
The famous billionaire? But I thought he was traveling the world!
Turns out he's back, incognito. He's afraid he'll get a visit from Fantomius!
An unfounded fear if I dare say so! That pathetic pickpocket is *overrated*!
?
Much like your intelligence, brother! Hehe!
I can tell you haven't changed a bit

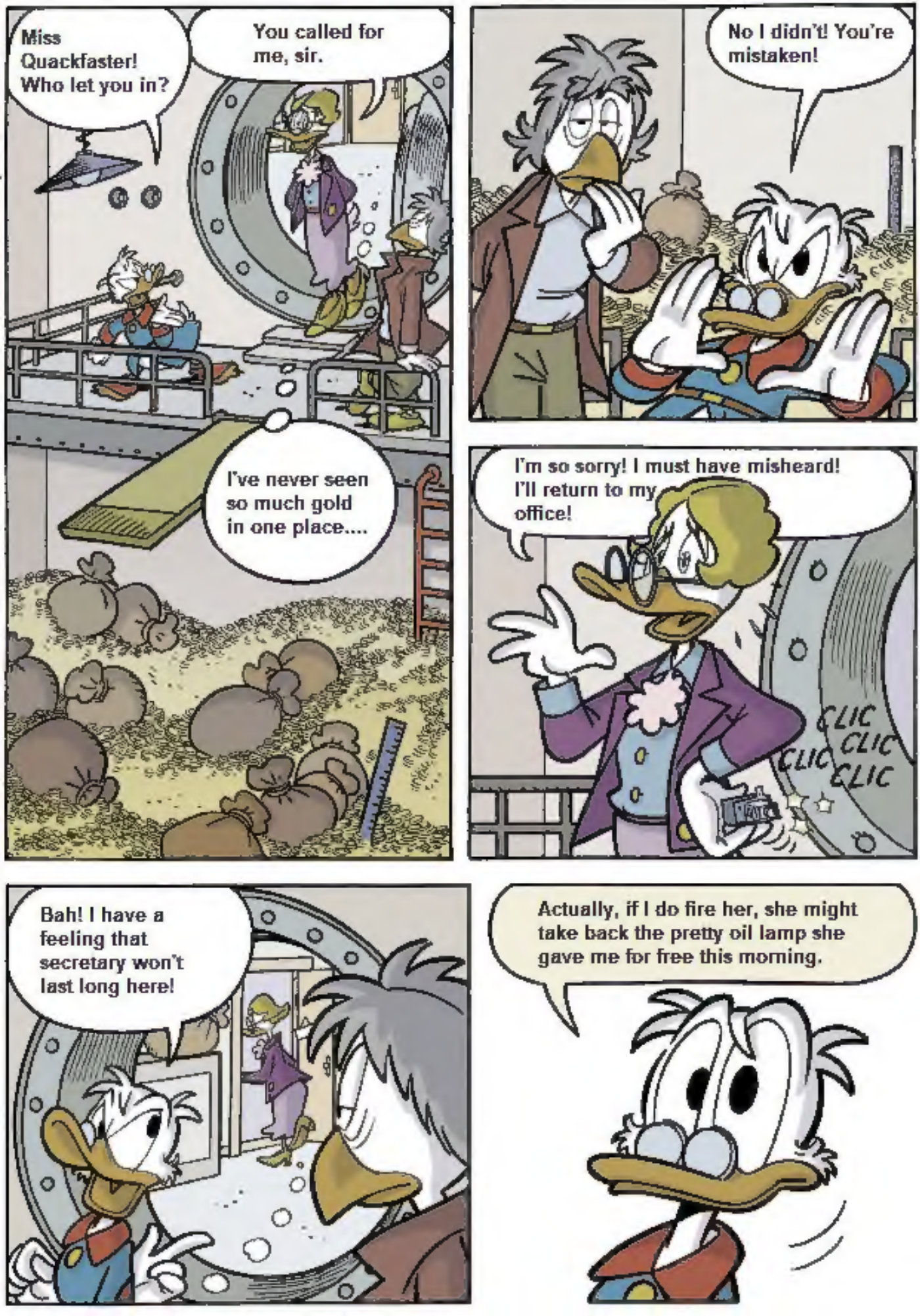
Why change when you're already perfect? Heehee!
UMPF!
Now if you'll excuse me, Mr. McDuck is eager to return to his travels, so I must leave you and attend to the money bin
No one's stopping you.
Lord Quackett, it's been a pleasure!
The pleasure is all *yours*.
Woops! Almost forgot! A common friend of ours wanted me to tell you she says hi!
?
The Countess of Cagliostro!
It seems my brother knows about our double life...
Indeed. It's likely Jen Yu told him!
See: The Rings of Cagliostro

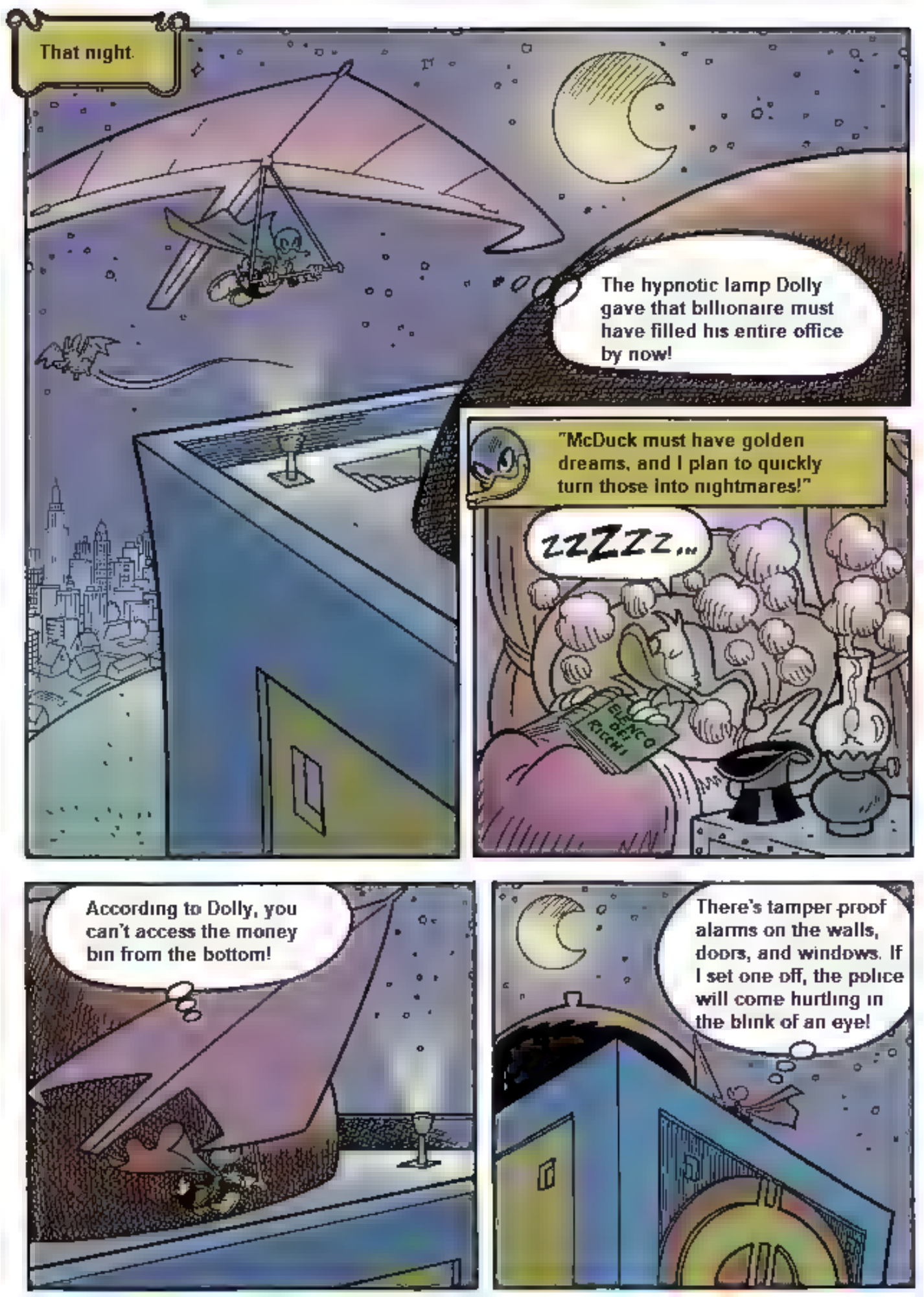

He came to challenge us to steal from the money bin and pass his defenses!
Very well! Challenge accepted!
Can your brother really create impenetrable defenses?
Yes, but I am more than capable of getting past them.
During our childhood, that was always his problem. He was obsessed with being *the best.*
Why?
I was shy, introverted, and had a sky high IQ. He was extroverted, boastful and... let's say less intelligent than me.
LAB
Because of that, we were stuck in endless competition as he looked for ways to discredit me.
BOOM
PROF. SMITH
In order to do better than me on tests, he'd turn to illicit methods, like stealing test answers or inventing ways to cheat off me.
PROF. SMITH
SOLUZIONE
TEST


Then, he'd have me take the blame for his misdeeds! That's why I ended up expelled! It's his fault!
COPERNICO PITAGORICO
SOLUZIO TEST
TAP TAP
When we got older, Cartesius left Duckburg without a trace.
Until today.
Right! And clearly, he's hardly changed at all!
I say he needs to be taught a lesson!
And this pathetic pickpocket will give it to him!
The next morning...
Miss Quackfaster! Where is that inventor?
He hasn't arrived yet sir!

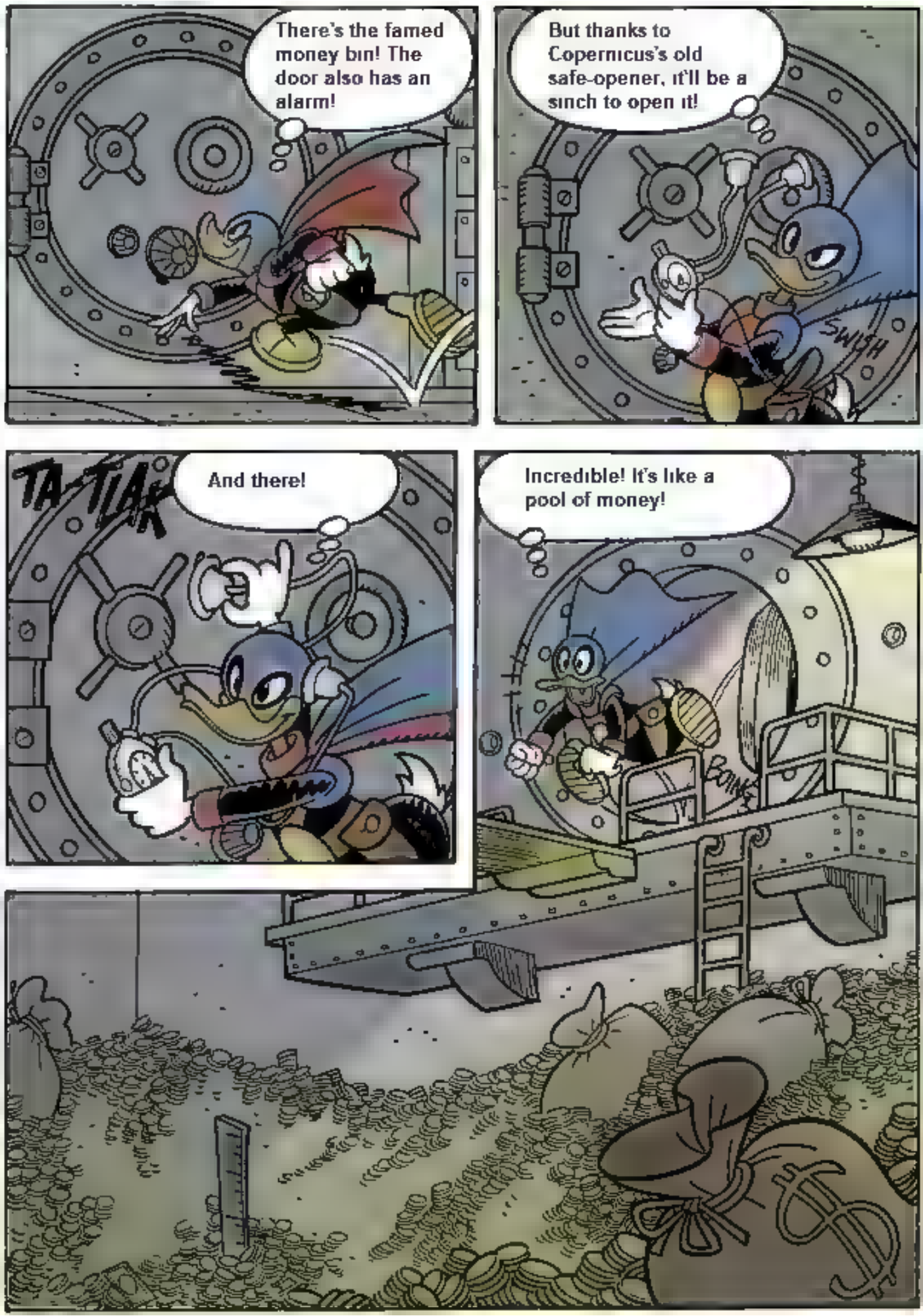
It's absurd! The sun has been up for at least half an hour! Time is money, you know!
I...
I'm here.
It's about time! I'm not paying you to sleep in!
PdP
Need I remind you that I offered to work for free?
And I was *kind enough* to accept that offer.
No time to lose! Show me this new security system you thought up!
PdP
Now's the moment!

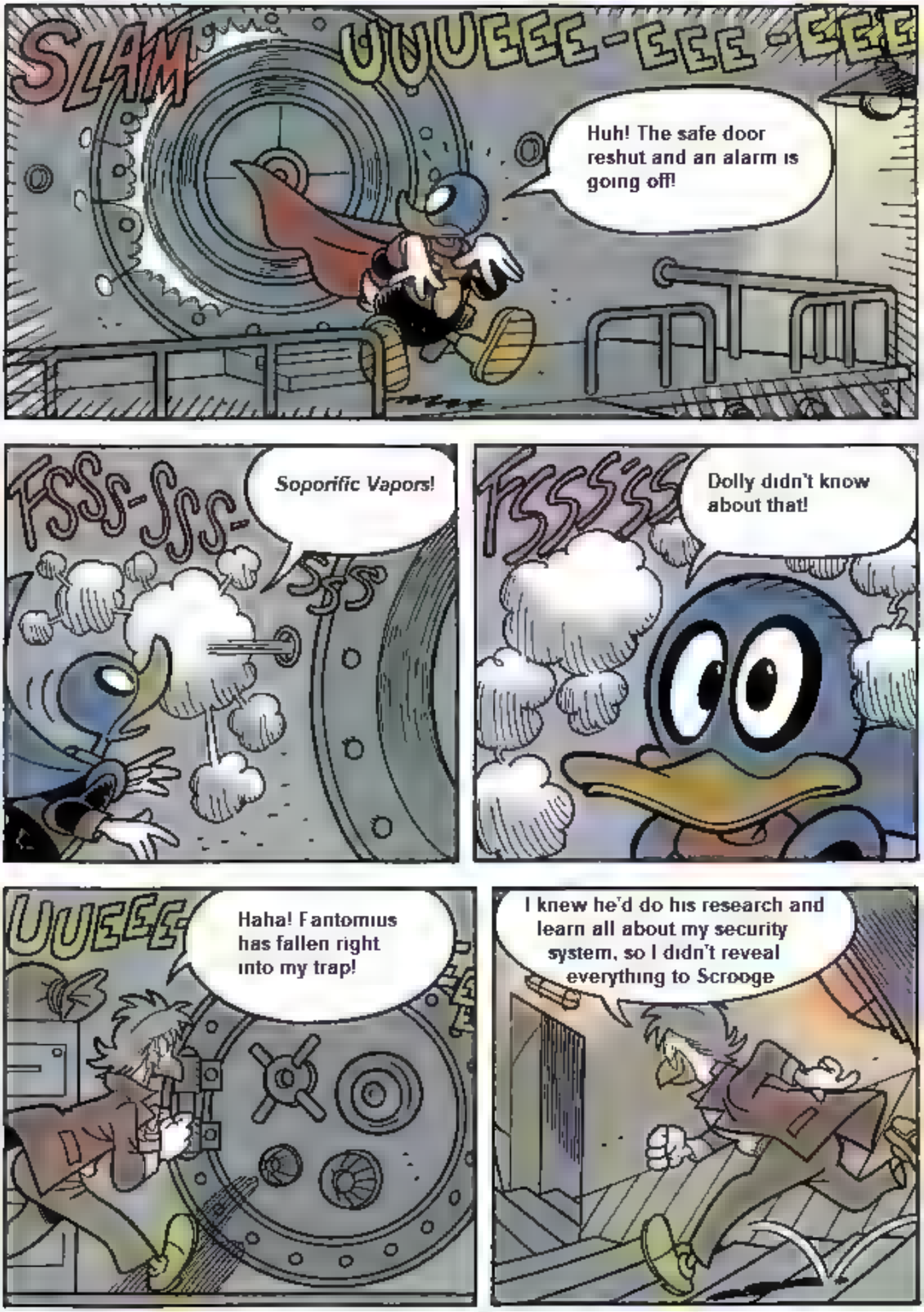
Thanks to these special earplugs, I can hear those two from far away!
Substituting for Miss Quackfaster and making sure she didn't get to the money bin was *child's play*!
The Z-Spray lasts at least 24 hours, so we have our time to act!
PFFST
Hmm,, Interesting! Cartesius built an impressive security system!
Now's the time to try out Copernicus' mini-camera!
P-P-P

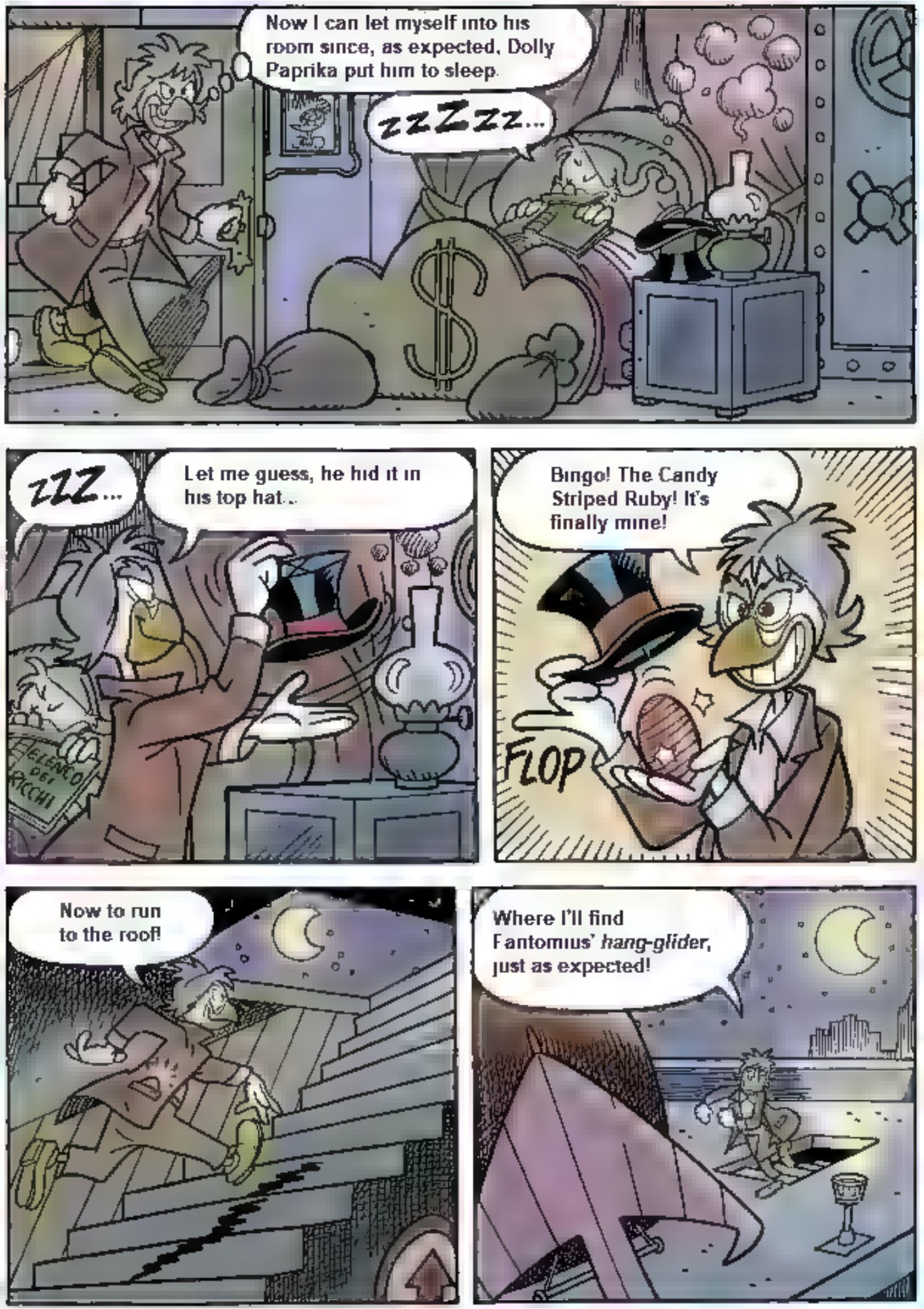

Miss Quackfaster! Who let you in?
You called for me, sir.
I've never seen so much gold in one place....
No I didn't! You're mistaken!
I'm so sorry! I must have misheard! I'll return to my office!
CLIC CLIC CLIC CLIC
Bah! I have a feeling that secretary won't last long here!
Actually, if I do fire her, she might take back the pretty oil lamp she gave me for free this morning.


That night.
The hypnotic lamp Dolly gave that billionaire must have filled his entire office by now!
"McDuck must have golden dreams, and I plan to quickly turn those into nightmares!"
zzZZz...
ELENCO DEI RICCHI
According to Dolly, you can't access the money bin from the bottom!
There's tamper-proof alarms on the walls, doors, and windows. If I set one off, the police will come hurtling in the blink of an eye!

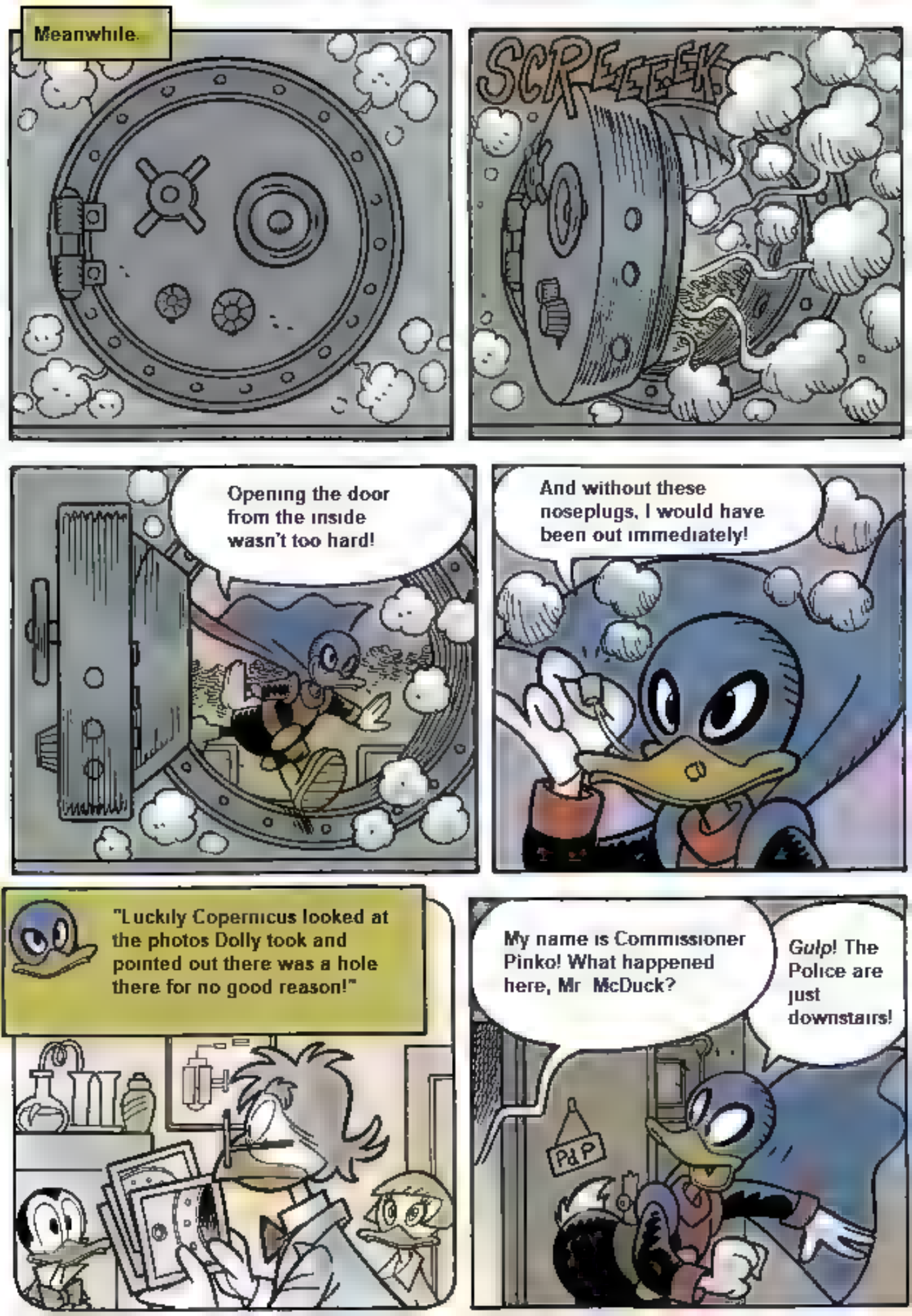
But Cartesius forgot one thing!
The alarm is set off by touching the window, not the window pane
I only have to cut the glass with with the help of a diamond point, and make sure not to touch the edges
CREE-EEEK
Just as planned, heheh!
BOING

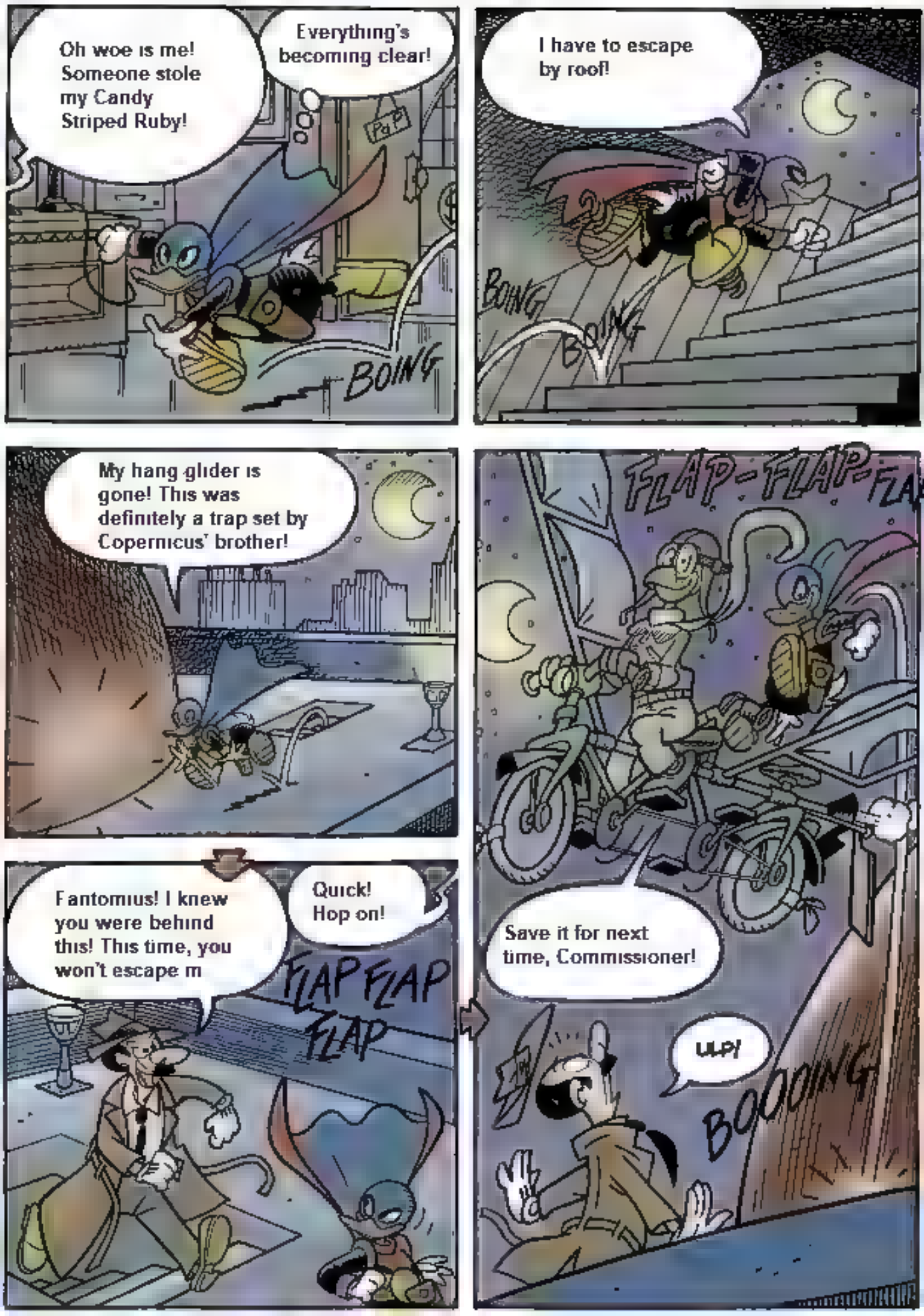

There's the famed money bin! The door also has an alarm!
But thanks to Copernicus's old safe-opener, it'll be a sinch to open it!
SWISH
TA-TLAK
And there!
Incredible! It's like a pool of money!
BOING

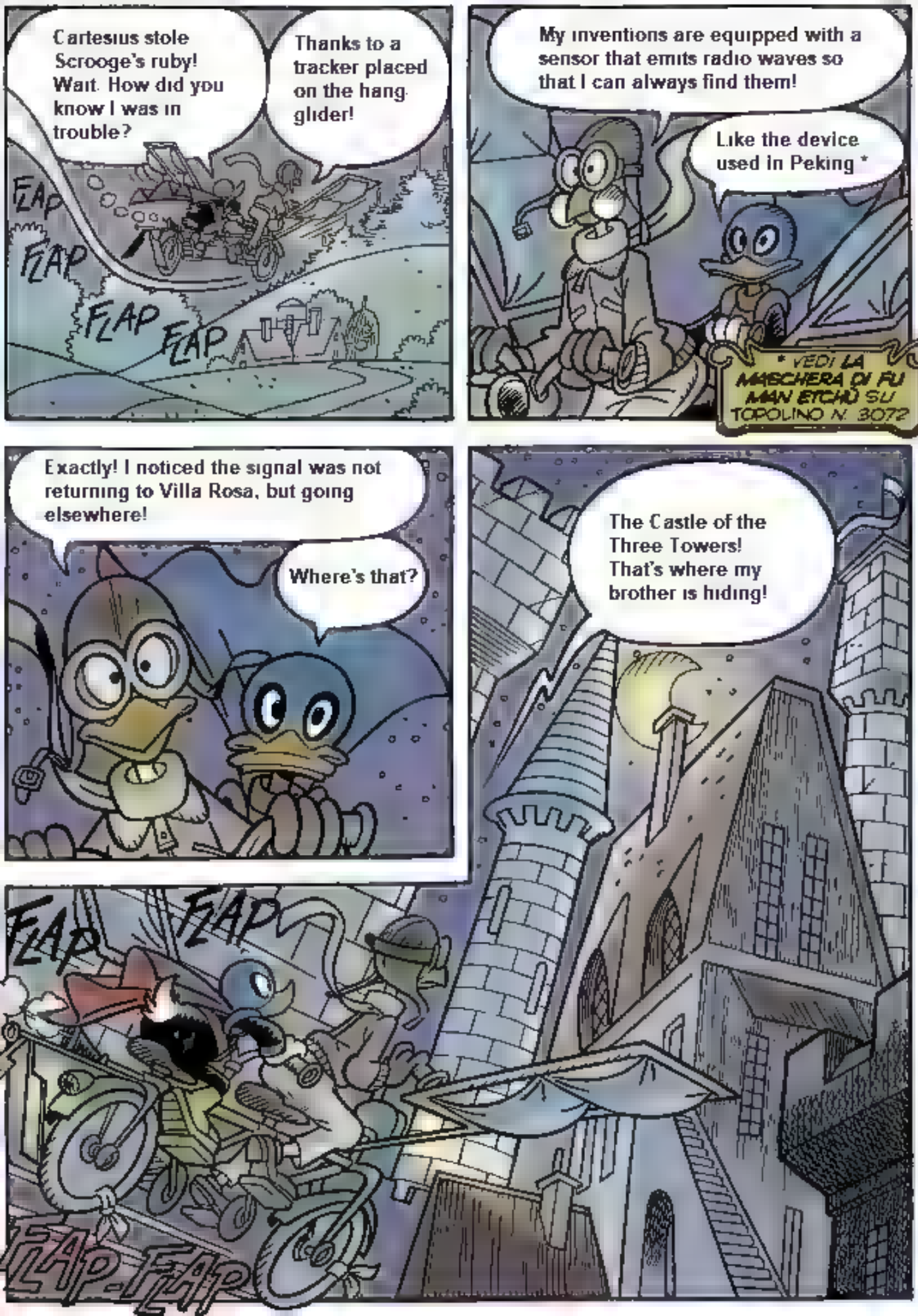

SLAM
UUUEEE-EEE-EEE
Huh! The safe door reshut and an alarm is going off!
FSS-SSS-SSS
Soporific Vapors!
FSSSSS
Dolly didn't know about that!
UUEEE
Haha! Fantomius has fallen right into my trap!
I knew he'd do his research and learn all about my security system, so I didn't reveal everything to Scrooge

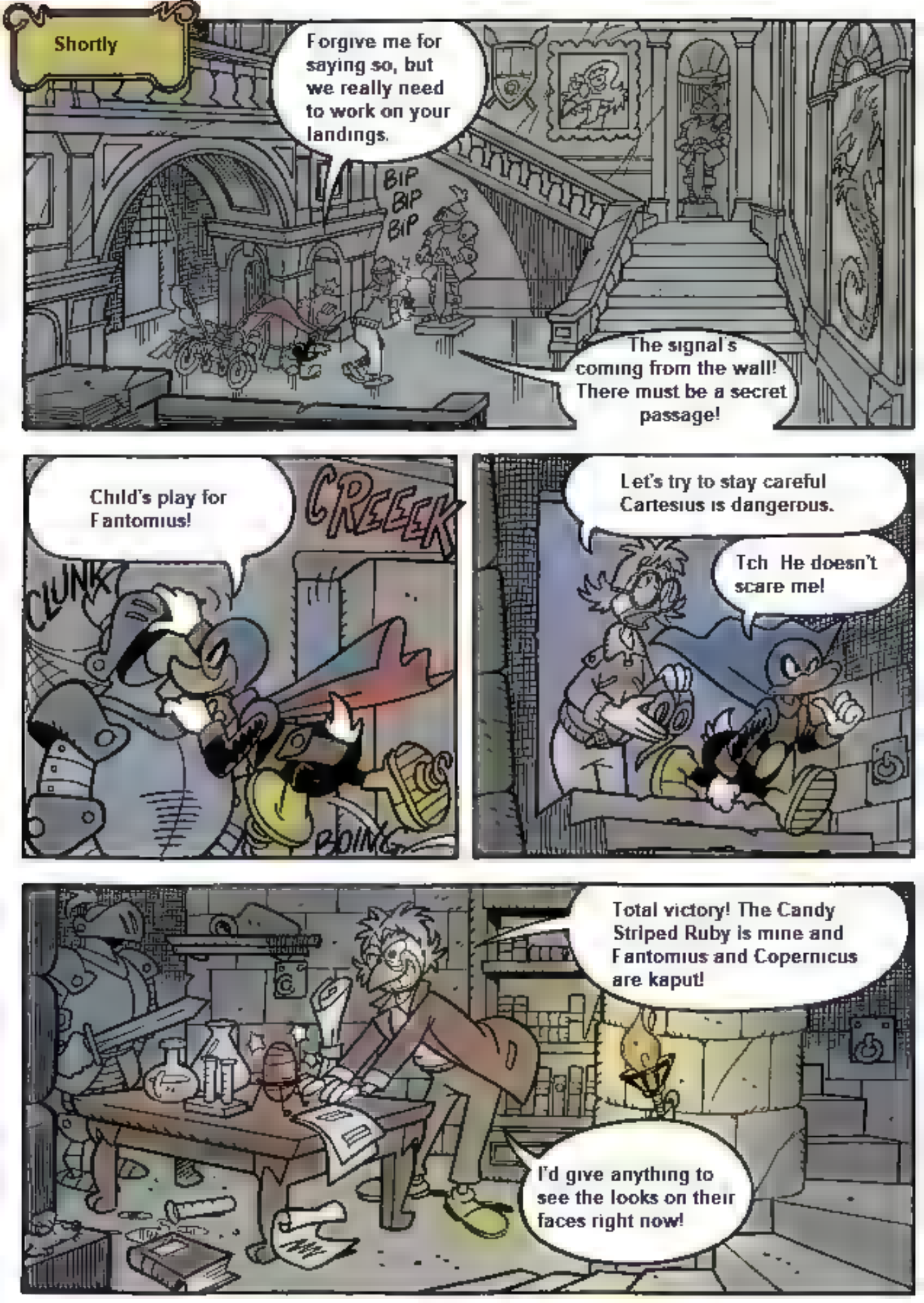

Now I can let myself into his room since, as expected, Dolly Paprika put him to sleep.
zzZzz...
zzz...
Let me guess, he hid it in his top hat...
ELENCO DEI RICCHI
Bingo! The Candy Striped Ruby! It's finally mine!
FLOP
Now to run to the roof!
Where I'll find Fantomius' *hang-glider*, just as expected!

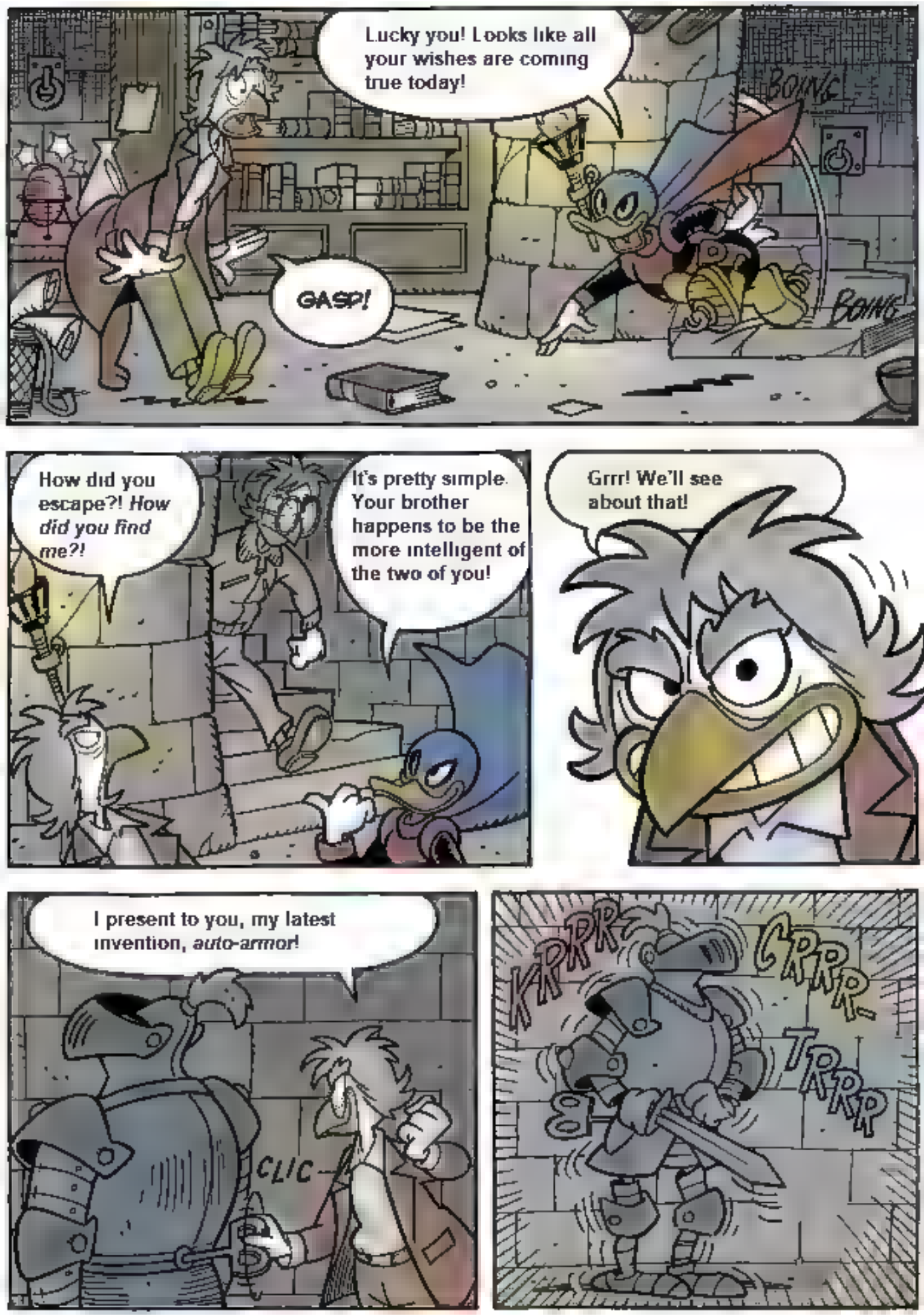
Stealing that gentleman thief's escape is the cherry on top to my plan!
ZOMP
There's the police! Shame I can't stay and aid in the arrest of Fantomius!
UUEEE-EEE-EEE-EEE-EEE
WOOOSH
But returning to my secret lab with the jewel I have coveted for years isn't too bad either! Hehe!

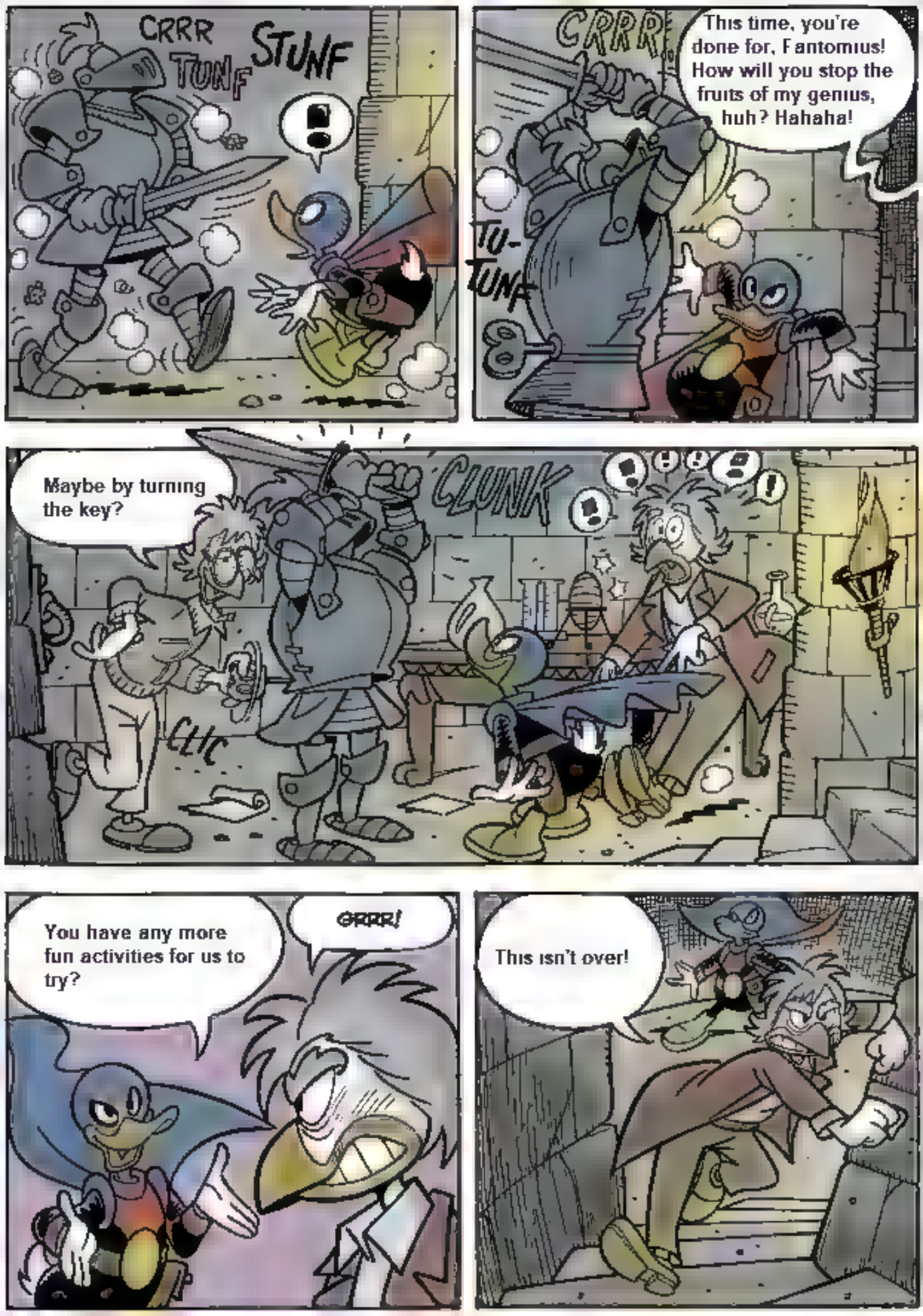

Meanwhile...
SCREEEEK
Opening the door from the inside wasn't too hard!
And without these noseplugs, I would have been out immediately!
"Luckily Copernicus looked at the photos Dolly took and pointed out there was a hole there for no good reason!"
My name is Commissioner Pinko! What happened here, Mr McDuck?
Gulp! The Police are just downstairs!
P&P

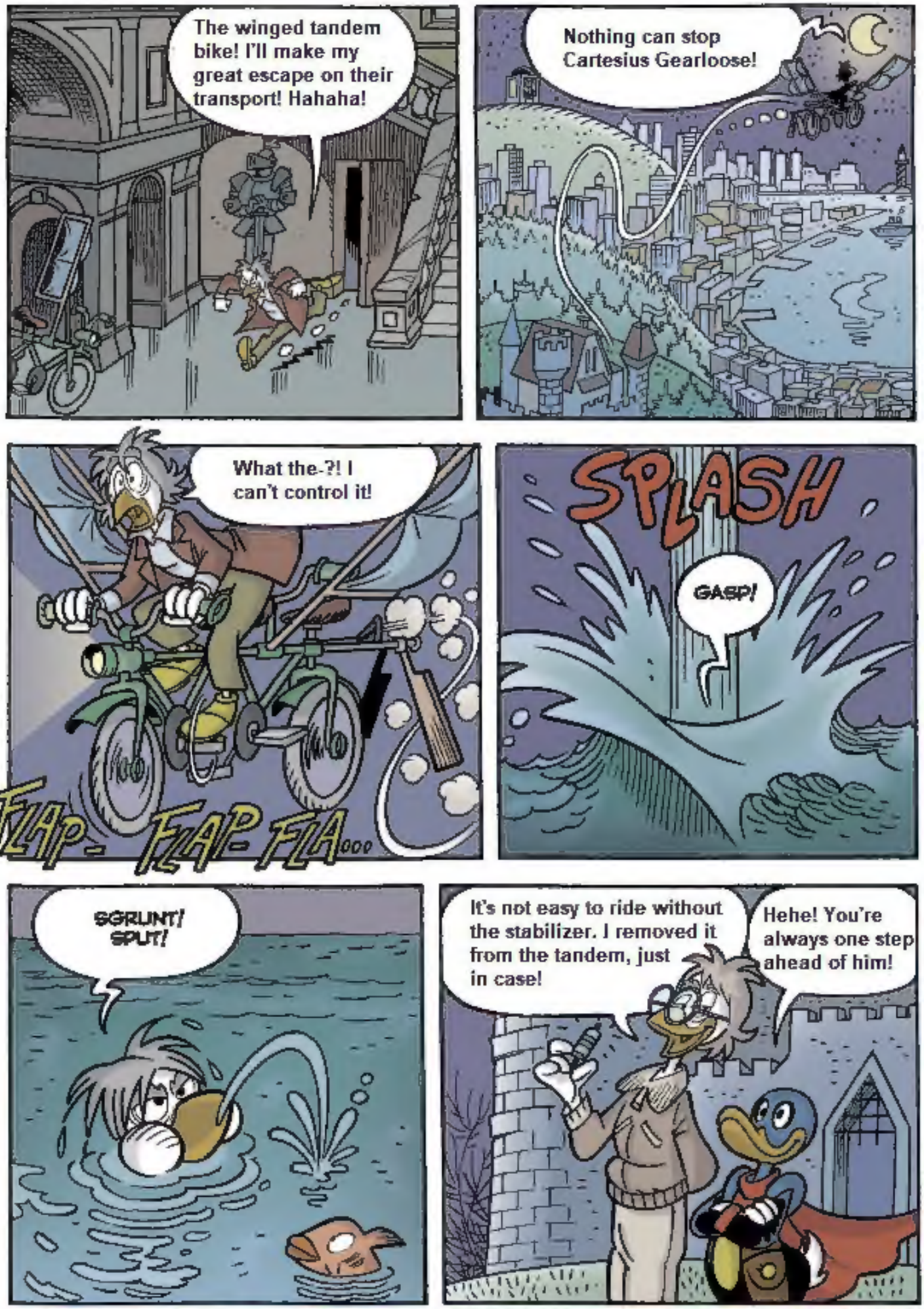

Oh woe is me! Someone stole my Candy Striped Ruby!
Everything's becoming clear!
BOING
I have to escape by roof!
BOING BOING
My hang-glider is gone! This was definitely a trap set by Copernicus' brother!
FLAP-FLAP-FLA
Fantomius! I knew you were behind this! This time, you won't escape m
Quick! Hop on!
FLAP FLAP FLAP
Save it for next time, Commissioner!
ULP!
BOOOING

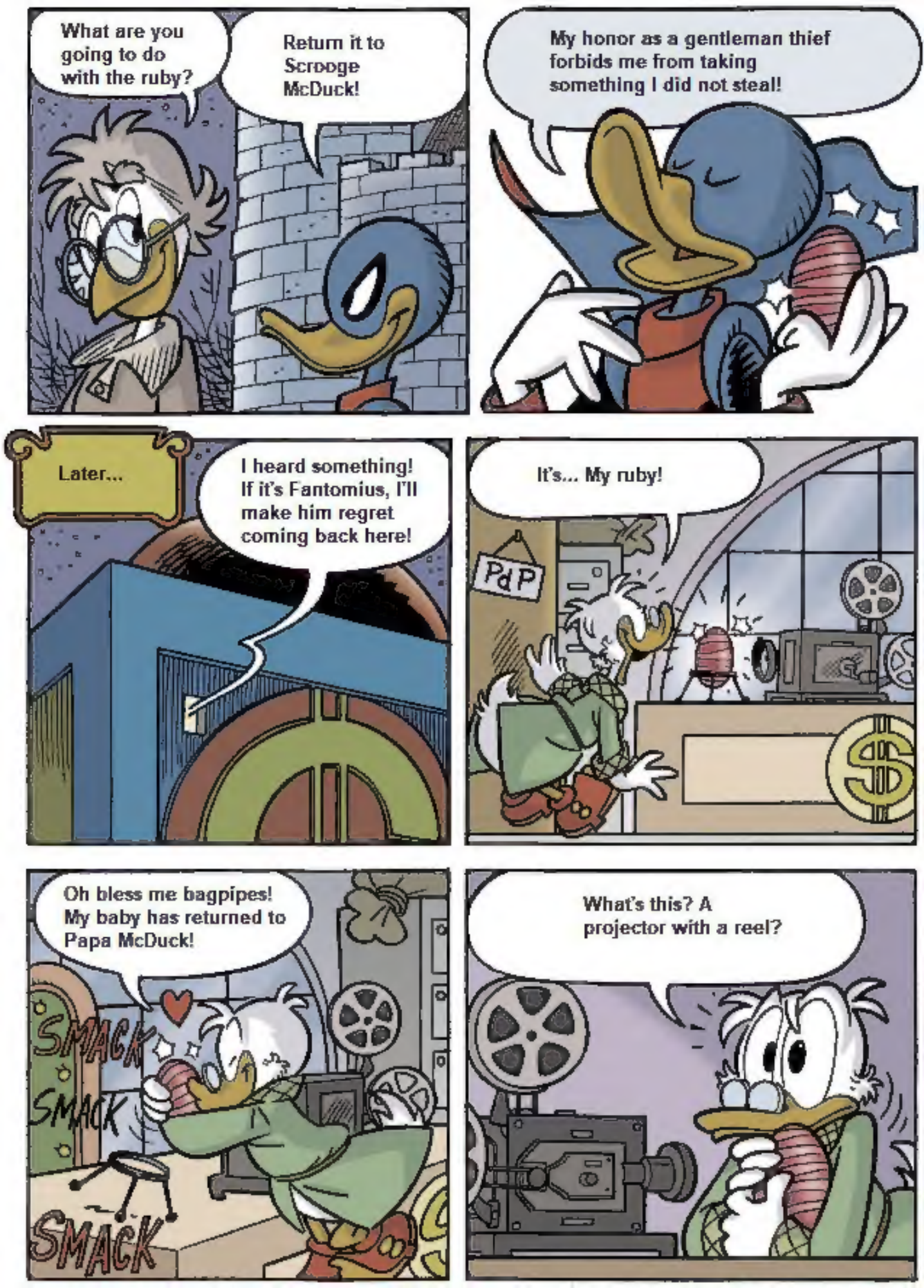

Cartesius stole Scrooge's ruby! Wait. How did you know I was in trouble?
Thanks to a tracker placed on the hang glider!
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
My inventions are equipped with a sensor that emits radio waves so that I can always find them!
Like the device used in Peking *
* VEDI LA MASCHERA DI FU MAN ETCHÙ SU TOPOLINO N. 3072
Exactly! I noticed the signal was not returning to Villa Rosa, but going elsewhere!
Where's that?
The Castle of the Three Towers! That's where my brother is hiding!
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP-FLAP

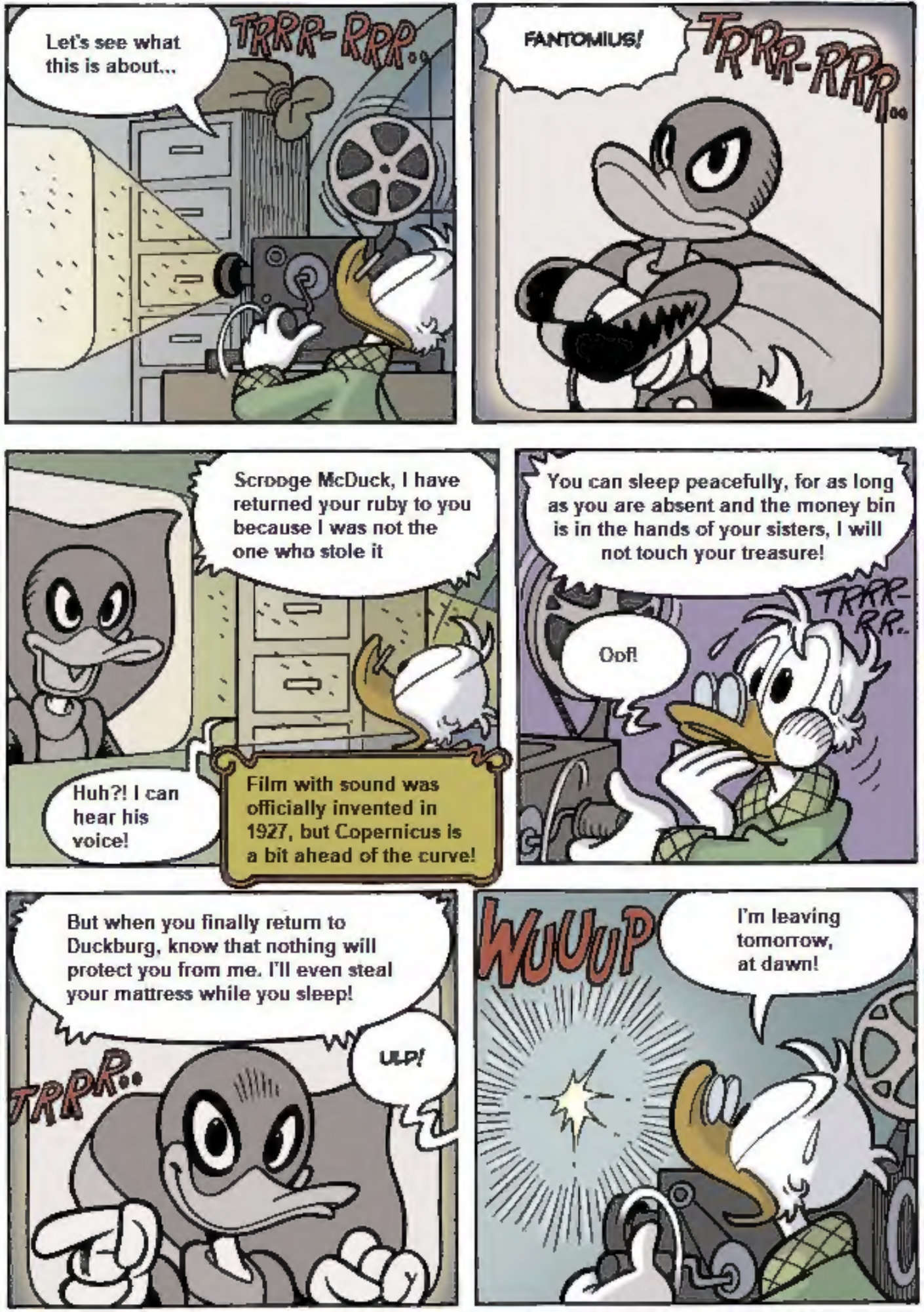

Shortly
Forgive me for saying so, but we really need to work on your landings.
BIP BIP BIP
The signal's coming from the wall! There must be a secret passage!
Child's play for Fantomius!
CREEEK
CLUNK
BOING
Let's try to stay careful Cartesius is dangerous.
Tch He doesn't scare me!
Total victory! The Candy Striped Ruby is mine and Fantomius and Copernicus are kaput!
I'd give anything to see the looks on their faces right now!

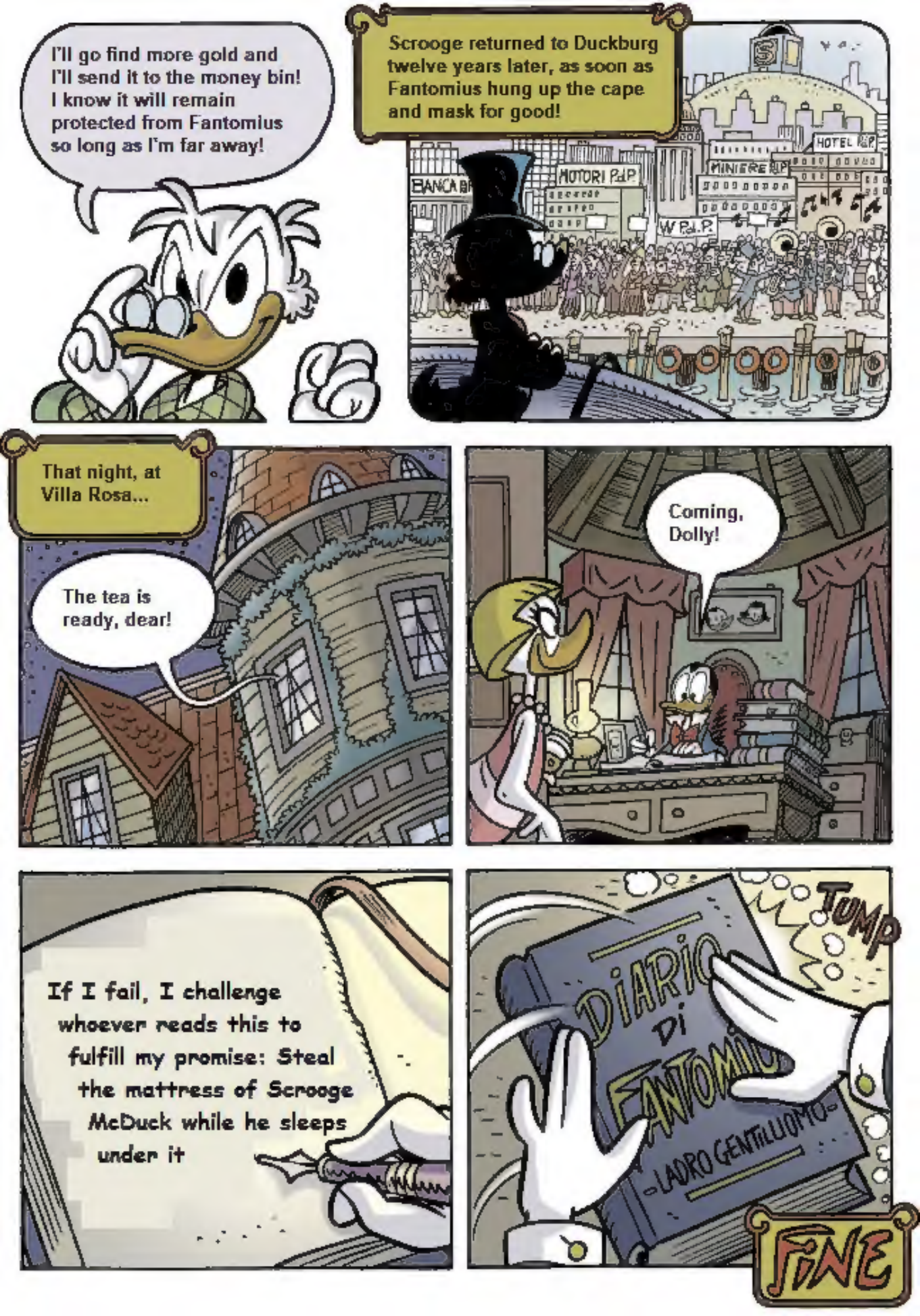

Lucky you! Looks like all your wishes are coming true today!
BOING
GASP!
BOING
How did you escape?! *How did you find me?!*
It's pretty simple. Your brother happens to be the more intelligent of the two of you!
Grrr! We'll see about that!
I present to you, my latest invention, *auto-armor*!
CLIC
KRRR
GRRR
TRRR


CRRR
TUNF
STUNF
!
CRRR!
This time, you're done for, Fantomius! How will you stop the fruits of my genius, huh? Hahaha!
TU-
TUNF
Maybe by turning the key?
CLUNK
!!!!!
CLIC
You have any more fun activities for us to try?
GRRR!
This isn't over!


The winged tandem bike! I'll make my great escape on their transport! Hahaha!
Nothing can stop Cartesius Gearloose!
What the-?! I can't control it!
FLAP- FLAP- FLA...
SPLASH
GASP!
SGRUNT! SPUT!
It's not easy to ride without the stabilizer. I removed it from the tandem, just in case!
Hehe! You're always one step ahead of him!


What are you going to do with the ruby?
Return it to Scrooge McDuck!
My honor as a gentleman thief forbids me from taking something I did not steal!
Later...
I heard something! If it's Fantomius, I'll make him regret coming back here!
It's... My ruby!
PdP
Oh bless me bagpipes! My baby has returned to Papa McDuck!
SMACK
SMACK
SMACK
What's this? A projector with a reel?


Let's see what this is about...
TRRR-RRR...
FANTOMIUS!
TRRR-RRR...
Scrooge McDuck, I have returned your ruby to you because I was not the one who stole it
Huh?! I can hear his voice!
Film with sound was officially invented in 1927, but Copernicus is a bit ahead of the curve!
You can sleep peacefully, for as long as you are absent and the money bin is in the hands of your sisters, I will not touch your treasure!
TRRR-RR..
Oof!
But when you finally return to Duckburg, know that nothing will protect you from me. I'll even steal your mattress while you sleep!
TRRR..
ULP!
WUUUP
I'm leaving tomorrow, at dawn!


I'll go find more gold and I'll send it to the money bin! I know it will remain protected from Fantomius so long as I'm far away!
Scrooge returned to Duckburg twelve years later, as soon as Fantomius hung up the cape and mask for good!
BANCA
MOTORI P&P
MINIERE P&P
HOTEL P&P
W P&P
That night, at Villa Rosa...
The tea is ready, dear!
Coming, Dolly!
If I fail, I challenge whoever reads this to fulfill my promise: Steal the mattress of Scrooge McDuck while he sleeps under it
TUMP
DIARIO DI FANTOMIUS
-LADRO GENTILUOMO-
FINE